



“THE STARTER”

May 2023

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Pastor Mark Harder

Pastor Mark Harder was born in Manitoba, Canada where he spent the first 30 years of his life. While there he went to and graduated from Briercrest Bible College and then spent the next 6 years working with Youth in Christ in his home town of Brandon, Manitoba.

He came to the USA in 1990 to study at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School there he earned his Master of Divinity degree. He then spent the next 30 years doing ministry in the Evangelical Church, with a majority of those years in the Midwest.

He has 4 boys, 2 which are married, and is expecting his first granddaughter in August. Pastor Harder enjoys spending time with his family, reading, listening to Christian music. He loves a good round of golf, and is beginning to enjoy the game of pickle ball.

He loves the Lord and is looking forward to what God has in store for him in his ministry career.



Thank You, Choir

We thank our Chancel Choir for their songs of praise and worship these past months. During their well- deserved rest, we welcome all who would like to share their gift of music in our summer worship service. Please sign up on the Welcome Table.



The meeting of the Session Board was held on Monday, April 17, 2023. It was decided to do a parsonage clean-up prior to the new pastor coming, Building use for Sue Gillio flute Camp, and the Flutes for Vets. It was also decided to get the youth more involved to ask them to be ushers and greeters on the first Sunday of the month. Meetings will be third Monday of the month.



Please be respectful of the few parking places in front of the church. If you are able to do so please leave them for those with difficult mobility issues.



Fuel your life with Christ and you'll never run out of gas!



New Summer Office Hours

Summer has to come eventually, and with summer comes many activities. Beginning the week of May 15th my new office hours will be Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 9am-3pm and Fridays 9-12pm.



Thank You!

A huge THANK YOU! Goes to everyone who month after month have volunteered their time and talents to the First Congregational Church Peru.



Parsonage Cleaning

Pastor Mark Harder is set to move into the parsonage late May. Volunteers are needed to help with sprucing up the inside of the parsonage before his arrival. Sign up if you would like to help on Saturday, May 20th at 9:00am. Many hands make it light work.



Pictures

Pastor Harder in an effort to get to know everyone would like pictures taken and names on the back. These will be taken here and sent to him in Indiana.



I finally did it! I bought a new pair of shoes with Memory Foam insoles. No more forgetting why I walked into the kitchen!



Congratulations Ella McCauley 8th Grade on June 1!!



Recipe for a Great Mom

- A pinch of snuggling
- 5 dashes of support
- 2 teaspoons of perfection
- 8 tablespoons of style
- A handful of creativity
- 1 teaspoon of bravery
- 3 teaspoons of silliness
- 10 cups of sweetness
- 100 cups of wisdom
- 1000 tablespoons of Hugs and Kisses
- 10,000,000 teaspoons of LOVE

Pour all of the ingredients into a large bowl. Stir them carefully until mixed well. Pour mixture onto your counter and mold with love.



Memorial Day

Memorial Day, the first of our summer holidays, means we will turn to our favorite pursuits – picnicking, boating, camping, mingling with the crowd at the fairs, or the ballpark, putting in the yard or lazing in the sun.

It began as Decoration Day when garlands were placed on the graves of Civil War dead. It became Memorial Day, an occasion for America to honor those who gave their lives in all wars. It has continued with solemn ceremonies in cemeteries across the country, with parades of school children proudly carrying American flags. And on this day, families have decorated the graves of those whose memory they cherish.

Yes, we need to relax and enjoy the holiday, but let us not forget to display the Stars and Stripes in our yards; to take that journey to the cemetery with our tokens of geraniums and peonies and wreaths; to wear the Veteran's poppy with concern for his welfare.

Let us remember who we are and where we are – Americans in a free land with the power of self-determination and pause to honor those who have preserved our heritage.



Three Simple Rules in Life

- 1) If you don't go after what you want, you'll never have it.
- 2) If you don't ask, the answer is always NO.
- 3) If you don't step forward, you're always in the same place.



National Day of Prayer

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, bringing together people of all faiths to pray for our nation.



Pray for the health of Jane McClintock, Char & Pete Belski, Rita Tieman, Deb Taylor, Rob Dickson
 **Please pray for daily grace for our shut-ins:
 Carol Edgcomb Don Walker
 Jane McClintock Lin Stuhr
 Lillian Mini

** Pray for Pastor Roy Jacob & Peace Mission in India caring for children and widows
 ** Pray for Jews for Jesus
 ** Pray for the Surbers and Supply & Multiply
 ** Pray for Abigail Women's Clinic
 ** Pray for Cup of Cold Water Ministries
 ** Pray for Transport for Christ
 ** Pray for PADS providing shelter to the Homeless



Baseball season will soon be here!! Time for peanuts and cracker jacks, rooting on the Chiefs! Sign-up please to get group ticket pricing. We've been invited to Faith and Family night, Saturday, June 10th and Wednesday July 26th. Fireworks after each game. Bus Transportation will be provided.



Pentecost

Pentecost, also known as Whitsunday, will be celebrated on May 28 this year. The word has its roots in the Greek word "pentecoste." Which means '50th day.' Pentecost is a major festival in the Christian church and is celebrated by believers on the Sunday that falls on the 50th day of Easter. The festival of Pentecost is still important to Christians today because it represents the beginning of the Christian Church. It reminds them how Jesus' promise that God would send the Holy Spirit was fulfilled. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and other disciples following the Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ (Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 2), and it marks the beginning of the Christian church's mission to the world.

A Mother's Prayer

Lord,

I pray for my children today.

I pray that they will not walk in step with the wicked, but will delight in your word (Psalm 1:1)

I pray that they will rejoice in you always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances.

(1Thess 5:16-17).

I pray that they will love you with all their heart, soul, and strength. Help me teach the powerful truth of your word to them.

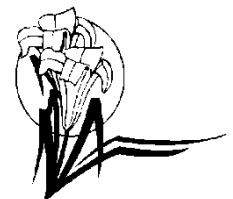
As we go about our daily lives, help us to discuss your truth when we sit at home, when we walk along the road, when we lie down and when we get up

(Deut 6:5).

Surround them with your Word, and may it be a shield of protection and grace over them.

I ask that you will equip them for a Life of godliness and call them according to your great purpose.

Amen.



Thank You

To all those who donated Easter lilies our sanctuary was dressed in full bloom to celebrate our risen Lord!

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Marilyn Dunker | In Memory of Family |
| Jane Gabrielse | In Memory of Roger Gabrielse |
| Nancy Erlenborn | In Memory of Family |
| Ellen Marincic | In Memory of Mom and Dad |
| Rob Dickson | |
| Betty Martuzzo | In Memory of Family |
| Bernie Dahl | In Memory of Family |
| Nancy Maze | |
| Terry & Vicki Hall | In Memory of Family |



Fifteen Characteristics of Faith

1. Faith is a choice.

2. Faith is a step of obedience
3. Faith is a spiritual exercise.
4. Faith is taking God at His word.
5. Faith is saying yes to God.
6. Faith is looking to Jesus for everything.
7. Faith is knowing we are never without hope.
8. Faith is what lifts us out of our circumstances.
9. Faith is not holding anything back from God.
10. Faith is being obedient even if we don't feel like it.
11. Faith is a gift from God as we read his Word.
12. Faith is knowing that everything will work out.
13. Faith is a way out of our limitations.
14. Faith is the mother of hope.
15. Faith is the road to peace.



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|---------|------------------------|
| May 21 | Bridget Wilmot Recital |
| June 10 | Peoria Chief's Game |
| June 18 | Flute Camp Sue Gillio |
| July 8 | VBS Day |
| July 26 | Peoria Chiefs Game |



Get Well Cards

Lin Stuhr is recuperating from her fall at the Ottawa Pavilion.
704 E. Glover Street
Room 601
Ottawa, Il 61350



Prayer for when you Don't Know What To Do

Dear heavenly Lord, I face situations and decisions.

*It's complicated and dense. I feel confused and lost.
Can you help me?
Can you show me the light?
First of all, oh Lord, calm my heart. Let me know
that my peace depends upon you alone.
No matter how things turn out, with you at the
center of my life, I will stand. I will survive. May
your spirit keep me balanced.
Lord, show me your will. Let my mind and heart be
open to what best serves truth and life.
Give me courage to do what is right.
Show me your Word. Reveal it to my heart, oh
Lord. And make my conviction strong.
For when I go to you, and you show me your will,
The blessing is guaranteed.
It may not be easy, it may take time,
But upon Christ I stand firm,
In Jesus name,
Amen.*



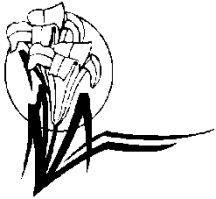
The Great Commission

Save the date VBS Day will be here soon. Plans are being made for Saturday, July 8, 2023. Please plan to attend and bring a friend.

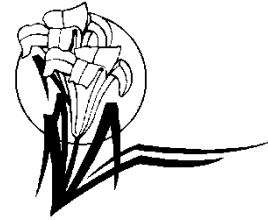


*I still believe in AMAZING GRACE
that there is POWER in the BLOOD
that HE WALKS with me and HE
TALKS
with me
that because HE LIVES I can face
tomorrow
all because of THE OLD RUGGED
CROSS.*





Thank You



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Marilyn Dunker

In Memory of Family

Jane Gabrielse

In Memory of Roger Gabrielse

Nancy Erlensborn

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Ellen Marincic

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Betty Martuzzo

In Memory of Family

Rob Dickson

Bernie Dahl

In Memory of Family

Nancy Maze

Terry & Vicki Hall

In Memory of Family

*** Your payment of \$8.00 can be given to Dawn Tieman. ***



Religious Emblem Award 2023

Congratulations to Evan Hall on receiving the Religious Emblem Award in scouting. Goals of the program are to explore faith together, help Children realize God is active in every part of their lives, know that Jesus is their best friend and to memorize the Lord's Prayer. Thank you to Dean Tieman for making this possible.

